



Family Planning – Fact Sheet

Family Planning services are offered to females (of child bearing age) and males at or below 250% of poverty. The goal of the Louisiana Family Planning Program is to provide basic reproductive health services and education to all females and males regardless of socio-economic status, especially to those with the most need.

If the funding level is decreased, this will result in the reduction of field staff, which in turn would increase wait times in the health units. A decrease in funding will also limit the types of contraceptives that are currently available on the formulary, reduce the number of contraceptives, and may cause an increase in the amount of funds the state would pay towards the program. Other affects would be a limited number of external contracts and limited educational materials that are made available to clients through our public health units and other venues. The end result could be an increase in births, sexually transmitted diseases, breast and cervical cancer, etc. If funding were increased, services statewide could be expanded.

Objective

By June 30, 2011, the Family Planning Program will continue to assure access to a broad range of family planning methods and services that correspond with nationally recognized standards of care.

Performance Indicators

1. Maintain a consistent decrease in wait time for appointments for family planning services to less than 28 days at 40% of clinics for adolescent and limited English proficiency clients.
2. Increase HIV screening of patients and number of tests administered by 50% based on revised HIV counseling and testing recommendations, and clients receiving the most efficient and up-to-date HIV prevention and treatment services.
3. Provide routine screening to reduce Chlamydia prevalence and inflammatory disease.
4. Increase the total number of females receiving folic acid by 100%.

5. Increase the number of available reproductive health education materials by 15%.

Narrative

Since 1970, Title X has provided access to contraceptive services, supplies and information to those in need. The Title X Family Planning (FP) Program is administered by the Department of Health and Human Services Office of Population Affairs. Services are provided statewide to low-income families who desire to space their children and/or limit their family sizes. Services must be voluntary, and individuals must not be subjected to coercion. Client confidentiality must be assured.

The goals are to provide high quality clinical family planning and reproductive health services to women and men at or below 250% of poverty in order to reduce unintended and teen pregnancy in Louisiana; Ensure that Family Planning Program services of the highest quality are provided consistently in all sites; Promote health seeking behavior and disease prevention among the medically Underserved; Enhance community access to and understanding of family planning services. Services offered include exams, lab screenings, Pap smears, counseling, referrals, education, and contraceptive methods. The broad range of family planning services provided does not include abortion as a method of family planning. For every \$1 spent on a client for family planning services, the state saves \$3 in maternity and child care.

As a part of Continuous Quality Improvement the program monitors, expand and update regional activities to improve program performance and accountability. Site assessment findings are used to develop corrective action plans as needed.

Training is also a major focus area. A training needs assessment is conducted. It is the basis for the training plan and calendar. Staff attend conferences, workshops, webinars, etc. to ensure continuous improvement and enhance services.

Patient encounter forms are completed for all services rendered. They document what transpired during the visit. They are continuously updated to reflect services, drugs dispensed, types of visits, etc. Consent forms are also provided to clients. They are revised and updated as needed.

In 2007, the Family Planning Program served nearly 59,000 patients. In 2008, over 60,000 patients were served. This number grows annually and is expected to increase even more in 2009. As of mid year, nearly 40,000 patients had been served. *Family Planning Annual Report.*

Better Health

Family planning provides reproductive health services, promotes health seeking behavior and disease prevention, and enhances community access to services. Patients receive counseling and testing needed to prevent sickness and disease, and they were educated and empowered about family planning services so they can make healthy decisions. Teenagers, poor and low-income women, and the uninsured are considered to be in most need of state-provided family planning services, as they are often the least likely to have the out-of-pocket resources to pay for contraception.

This program provides contraceptive and lab services, health screenings, and general health education and counseling. Patients also receive counseling and testing needed to prevent sickness and disease, and they are educated and empowered about family planning services so they can make healthy decisions.

Family planning clinics are often the only source of medical care and health information for most of the people who attend the clinics. The majority of clients are between the ages of 20-24 years of age, and there are also a large number of teenage patients. *Family Planning Needs Assessment*

The program contracts with external clinical facilities through the central office and throughout the nine regions within the state. The program also contracts with Outreach contractors to provide family planning education to hard-to-reach and underserved populations in their respective communities/ areas. The program partners with the HIV Program to ensure that the CDC's revised HIV counseling and testing recommendations are met. The program collaborates with the STD Program to provide routine screening to reduce Chlamydia prevalence and pelvic inflammatory disease. *The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Synthesis Project* recently produced a report that highlighted Chlamydia screening as an Intervention that proved to be cost effective).